

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 PC-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5013

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1106

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: ELECTION RESULTS STILL AWAITED

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1049

1. THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CCE) HAS ISSUED NO ADDITIONAL DEFINITIVE RESULTS, LEAVING SITUATION ESSEVTIALLY UNCHANGED SINCE REFTEL. CONCEIVABLY, THE DELAY IN ANNOUNCING THE FINAL RETURNS MAY BE DESIGNED TO ALLOW OPPOSITION FEELINGS TO COOL AMONG THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND NARROW PARTISAN CIRCLES. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT POPULAR PASSIONS HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY THE DISPUTED CONTEST. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE WINNERS WILL BE CERTIFIED BY DEPARTMENTAL ELECTORAL COUNCILS IN THE COURSE OF THIS WEEK.

2. UNO PLANS A TELEVCSION PROGRAM ON MARCH 20 AND AN OUTDOOR RALLY IN DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR ON MARCH 22 TO CONTINUE TO AIR ITS CHARGES OF FRAUD. IN A FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT ON MARCH 16, UNO REPRODUCED THE PRELIMINARY CCE RESULTS FROM LA UNION DEPARTMENT, SHOWING THE PCN WITH 56,000 VOTES, UNO WITH 2000 AND WITH AND ADDITIONAL 10,000 UNO VOTES NULLIFIED AND ASKED: "WHO WILL BELIEVE THIS IS SO?" IN ADDITION, UNO IS TRYING A NUMBER OF LEGAL MANEUVERS AT THE MUNICIPAL ELVEL TO FORCE THE ANNULMENT OF SOME RESULTS, AND ALCALDES DEL PUEBLO HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN SET UP IN A FEW MUNICIPALITIES HWERE UNO

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CLAIMS TO HAVE WON. THESE TACTICS WILL PROBABLY YIELD MEAGER

RESULTS.

3. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THE OPPOSITION SEEMS TO HAVE RECONCILED ITSELF TO LIVING WITH THE FRAUDULENT RESULTS. IN ITS MOST RECENT ADVERTISEMENT, UNO CLAIMS TO HAVE MADE ITS POINT SIMPLY BY PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS "BECAUSE IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE THE ARMED FORCES ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE ROLE THEY HAVE PLAYED AGAINST THE ASPIRATIONS AND RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE." THE AD ENDED BY ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PCN OF CLOSING THE DOOR TO VIABLE DEMOCRACY AND PEACEFUL CHANGE IN EL SALVADOR. NEVERTHELESS, UNO LEADERS ARE DEEPLY FRUSTRATED AND SOME HAVE BEGUN TO QUESTION ANEW IF ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION IS WORTHWHILE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. ONE PDC LEADER ASSERTED PRIVATELY THAT "PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO CLOSE UP SHOP."

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Message Attributes

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